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## DAWSON SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Dawson Regional Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Tim Sellars, Senior Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Report for March 2022  
**DATE:** March 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

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The following is an update on activities undertaken since the last public Meeting February 9, 2021.

### 1. Recommended Plan Development

We are on track for completion of the Recommended Plan by June 1. Staff are working very hard to make this a reality and as the deadline approaches, difficult decisions will need to continue be made in an efficient manner.

The staff has met with Commission to work through the following topics:

Date	Working Session Topics
February 10-11	Special Management Areas
March 7	SMA Intent/Direction/Values, Plan Objectives
March 8	Major River Corridors, Implementation
March 17	Cumulative Effects
March 18	Wetlands

The major topics we are working on for future sessions are:

Working Session Topics
Climate Change Integration
Final Agreement Alignment
Land Management Unit Designations
Land Stewardship Trust
General Management Direction
Recommendations (Policy/Research/Actions)
Management Practices

While the Recommended Plan is still targeted for June 1, additional deliverables will likely come after that date, including: Plan Language Summary, Methods Report, and communications materials.

Over the coming weeks, we will develop a Communications Plan to provide clarity of how the Recommended Plan will be rolled out to the Parties, stakeholders and the Public.

## **2. Draft Plan Public Engagement**

We still have a couple of loose ends regarding the Draft Plan Public Engagement.

Due to the volume of feedback, there is still more coding to be done of the feedback received.

We are also required to produce a “What We Heard” report from the Draft Plan public engagement.

## **3. Working Group meetings**

### **Technical Working Group (TWG)**

TWG met on March 3, where discussions took place relating to resource objectives, major river corridors, the North Fork Hydro Project, and other minor matters.

We are continuing to provide opportunities for TWG to review materials and contribute to the process. We are also providing TWG with regular updates on the progress towards the Recommended Plan.

The next TWG meeting will be March 22.

### **Cumulative Effects Working Group (CEWG)**

CEWG presented to the Commission on March 17 for the Cumulative Effects working session.

The working group will continue to work towards providing the Commission with some key products, such as current surface disturbance levels, a disturbance report, and other potential cumulative effects concepts.

### **Senior Liaison Committee (SLC)**

SLC is working to develop joint feedback relating to the topics of mineral claims, access, and wetlands. We are hoping to receive correspondence which communicates areas of agreement on these topics from the Parties.

### **Peel Plan Implementation Committee (PPIC)**

PPIC presented to the Commission on February 11, providing their perspective on lessons learned from implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Plan. This information is being considered as we work towards our Recommended Plan.

## **4. Land Act Modernization**

Staff met with Mike Draper from Yukon Government...

The Government of Yukon creating a new ***Yukon Public Lands Act***.

The act will replace the ***Lands Act*** and the ***Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act***. It will recognize First Nations Final Agreements and land management.

The act will address land use for residential development, conservation, business and recreational activities. It can be used to support and manage recreation activities such as cabins, camping, off-road vehicle use, bicycling and hiking. The act will also support residential development, commercial activities, resource and industrial development and critical cultural, heritage, and environmental protections.

There is a **discussion paper** (in your meeting packages) that outlines key considerations.

The deadline to participate is April 30, 2022.

## **5. Coffee Project**

On March 3, 2022, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, and Government of Yukon issued a joint decision document for the Coffee Project. The Decision Bodies accepted the YESAB recommendation that the Project be allowed to proceed subject to terms and conditions specified in the Referral Report, including monitoring recommendations. The YESAB decision document is in your packages.

A key mitigation measure that links to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission is that "The Government of Yukon shall implement a monitoring program for linear development (i.e. roads) and surface disturbance (i.e. mined areas) in the White Gold area in relation to effects to moose and other wildlife (i.e. caribou)."... **"Monitoring shall reflect and complement priorities identified in and work undertaken for the Dawson Land Use Plan."**

## **6. North Fork Hydro Project**

DRPC has submitted correspondence to YESAB regarding the proposed North Fork Hydro Project.

In the letter, we have communicated the relevant sections from the Draft Plan that would pertain to this project. Due to the fact that the Draft Plan may be subject to significant change, we have not put a position forward to the assessors on whether or not the project is in conformity nor whether the Commission supports the project.

## **7. Upcoming Activities**

Our next steps include:

- Continue to engage with the Parties at technical and senior levels;
- Finish coding of Draft Plan feedback and produce a What We Heard Report;
- Recommended Plan Development:
  - Overall consideration of fundamental changes
    - Climate Change
    - Traditional Knowledge and TH culture
    - Final Agreement integration
  - Options papers for:
    - Land Management Units
    - Stewardship Trust
  - Revisions to specific sections:
    - Regional context
    - Recommendations (research, policy, action)
    - General Management Directions
    - Implementation
  - Transmittal Letter
- Communications Plan
- Methods Report

## **8. Meeting Schedule**

April 5-6: Working Session

April 26-27: Working Session

May 10-11: Working Session

May 25-26: Working Session

May 31: Plan sign-off